



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/761,892	01/21/2004	Bruce L. Taylor	Strataloc-001	4229
26604	7590	04/28/2005	EXAMINER	
KENNETH L. NASH P.O. BOX 680106 HOUSTON, TX 77268-0106			NEUDER, WILLIAM P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3672

DATE MAILED: 04/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/761,892

Applicant(s)

TAYLOR ET AL.

Examiner

William P Neuder

Art Unit

3672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 32-34 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 25-~~36~~ and 39-45 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9, 11, 15-18, 21-23 and 36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10, 12-14, 19, 20, 24, 37 and 38 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____   |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/26/04, 4/28/04</u>  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____                                     |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restrictions***

**DETAILED ACTION**

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-31 and 35-45, drawn to a drilling assembly and method of drilling, classified in class 175, subclass 57.
- II. Claims 32-34, drawn to a method of manufacturing a drilling assembly, classified in class 76, subclass 108.2.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions of Group I and Group II are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the drilling assembly could be made from a different process.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

During a telephone conversation with Mr. Nash on 4/22/05 a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-31 and 35-45. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 32-34 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 9,11,15-18,21-23 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moore.

Moore discloses a drilling assembly and method of drilling having a top sub 13 secured to a first outer tubular 16. Bottom sub 11 is secured to the bottom of the outer tubular. High-density weight section 20 is mounted within the outer tubular member and has a specific gravity of at least 10. As to claim 23, since the high density section can be formed in pieces or sections, the high density material would have some degree of axial movement and therefore reads on axial slidable. As to claim 11, the weight section 20 is mounted in the annulus between the inner and outer tubes. As to claim 15, the assembly is statically balanced. As to claim 16, the weight section can be formed in a plurality of weight elements that are mounted in selected rotational positions. As to claims 17 and 18, the weight section has a thickness that is twice as large as the thickness of the outer tubular member. As to claim 21, an inner tubular member 24 is provided. As to claim 22, welds 25 provide a fluid tight seal. As to claim 36, more than one weighted drilling assembly can be connected together which then would make first and second tubular members, top and bottom subs and weight sections.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

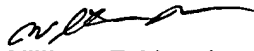
Claims 10,12-14,19,20,24,37 and 38 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-8,25-<sup>31, 35</sup>~~35~~ and 39-45 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William P Neuder whose telephone number is 571-272-7032. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David J Bagnell can be reached on 571-272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
William P Neuder  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3672

W.P.N.